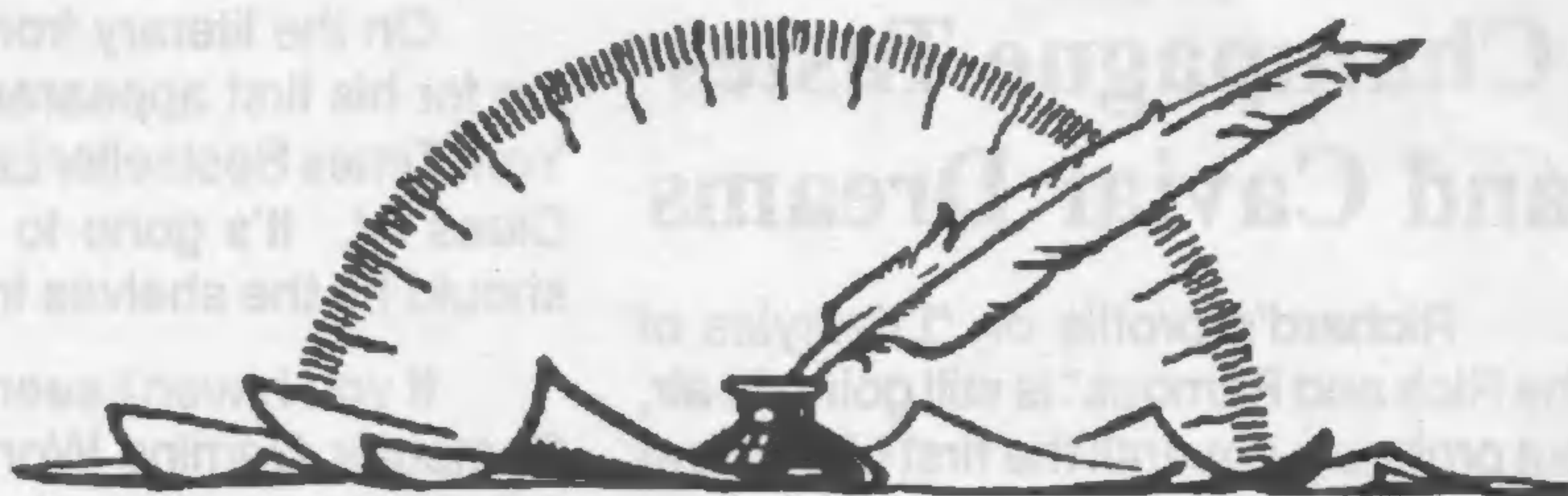


POINT OF ORIGIN



An ORIGIN tradition since last June

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♦♦ Austin, Texas

Bulldog Bytes

Sales wanted its own column. Actually, Sales wanted its own paper, company and hemisphere. That's the attitude after a banner month. Marten and Karl have been working software dealers into a lather while Wing 2 keeps flying off the shelves. At Software, Etc. it's #1 and #2 respectively in the 3.5 and 5.25 versions. If that don't beat all, its Speech Pack cousin is at #3. Go figure. Everybody in Sales sends a huge "thanks" to the Product Development folks for an A-1 product.

"...A hurricane has come over our dealers and retailers in France."

Meanwhile, across the waters, Wing 2's holding the top spot on the Gallup PC Chart (equivalent to Billboard in the UK). Incredible performance! Mindscape's barely keeping up with demand for the product and Speech Pak. One distributor says Wing 2 sold more units in one month than F19 did in two years.

Our French distributor faxed a message to us: "A hurricane has come over our dealers and retailers." Bien joué! For those of you who didn't take three years of high school French, that's "well done!" It's safe to say the world awaits the next rollout.

The Voice of Origin

Don't overlook all the things going on in Customer Service; it still gets calls from players booting up Ultima II! Obviously, though, the lion's share of questions are about Wing 2. The department's

going to add an 8th staffer in the near future.

The "Best of the Quest" story of the month goes to a caller who complained that every time he loaded Wing 2, it didn't pick up where he left off last time. After talking him through all the procedures of playing from a floppy, it turned out he had actually been installing onto his *hard drive every game!* CS was then able to save the guy considerable grief (and considerable time).

WC2's spinning off more than Kilrathi fighters. Kathy's holding down the fort in Consumer Sales, taking about 30 orders a day for the Speech Pack and at least 20 orders a day for the Special Operations and Strategy Guide. She's even taking pre-order for "Black Gate" in November. No doubt it will be ready, right?

Take some time to visit with the CS rep's, either during Happy Hour or one of the Wednesday cookouts. They aren't able to circulate through the building as much as other, but they know first-hand what consumers think about the games and you can keep them up-to-the-minute on what's down the pike.

A Bug in Your Ear

Nothing stays the same in Quality Assurance; everybody's either movin' in or movin' up. The department has four new employees and four promotions. Perry (the Stoker) Stokes makes the hyperjump to full-time. Jarrett Crippen calls this his day job; at night, he's the Security Manager at Dallas Nightclub (people are already deciphering the advantages in that situation). Mike Chenault comes to us fresh from the University of St. Thomas. He says it's in Houston, not a Caribbean slacker school. Robert Hill's

also signing on with a long history of gaming and a military background. Hmmm, sounds like employee-of-the-year material.

Promotion-wise, add these to the proud ranks of TDA: Kirk Winterwood in Strike Commander, Kevin Potter in Special Op's, Scott Hazle in U7 and Scott Shelton in U7/Super Nintendo. Congratulations! And you might want to think about paying a visit when QA has *three* games at once in November. Meanwhile, Jeff and Karen are already on the prowl for ten new testers.

Halloween Day: Cookout

(Instead of Wednesday)

*Costume Contest/\$30 Gift Certificate to
Toys-R-Us*

We're Everywhere!

Marketing's making sure you can't swing a dead cat without hitting one of our ads. The 16- and 8-page external newsletter called "ORIGIN's Software Entertainment Technology Report" will be in the November issues of Computer Game Review and COMPUTE, respectively. Game Player's issue with the Strike Commander cover, poster and exclusive coverage should be out by the end of October.

Mike Harrison has logged on temporarily as Creative Services Director for the permanently-vacationing Cheryl Neeld. He's done more pinch-hitting than Daryl Strawberry. This is the fourth Fall in a row that he's been here. Pat hopes to hire Cheryl's replacement soon, but Mike's hanging onto the hotel reservation phone number just the same.

Champagne Tastes and Caviar Dreams

Richard's profile on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" is still going to air, but probably not until the first of the year and you'll have to go to Dallas to see it. No local affiliate carries the program, but we'll make every effort to get a dub.

On the literary front, David's waiting for his first appearance on the New York Times Bestseller List with *Quest for Clues IV*. It's gone to the printer and should hit the shelves in 2 or 3 weeks.

If you haven't seen the latest from Computer Gaming World, check it out. *ORIGIN* has a triple-whammy with *Wing Commander* at #1 and "Game of the Year" while *Wing 2* gets a boffo review.

Word from Galen: "Point of *ORIGIN*" will now be a thinner and more frequent publication, but 13-point type can only carry me so far. I'm always on the lookout for features, profiles, war stories, anecdotes or word on what the competition's doing. I'll be loitering in every department (I'm the guy with the necktie and without the visitor's badge). Tip me off or drop me a line. My e-mail never closes.

ORIGIN *Sports Page*

U7/Strike Clash on Field of Honor



ZILKER PARK—

A relentless sun was beating down on the trapezoid-shaped field where U7 and Strike teams faced off for the ultimate flag football showdown.

Afternoon athletes tanked up on the fundamentals: fried chicken and "assorted beverages" while the Herman Miller Marching Band whipped the small but enthusiastic crowd into a musical frenzy.

Richard set hard and fast rules by declaring, "Honor system, dudes."

U7 tacked points onto the scoreboard first. After driving to the 6-



yard line, Tony Zurovek took a broken play and turned it into an endzone romp.

Strike fought back with a tricky flea-flicker, but Operations titan Jeff Hillhouse came out of nowhere to snatch the interception and take it 60 yards for yet another score. The play drew howls of protests from Strike athletes and supporters alike, who clamored, "What do you do for Ultima 7, Jeff?" To which Jeff quietly removed his mouthpiece and replied, "I play football."

The tide finally turned in the second half. Strike QB Thomas Blom took the snap and aired out a picture-perfect pass to Bruce Lemmons, who ran untouched for a 40-yard score.

But that would be Strike's only moment of glory. A few minutes later, slippery Jim Greer put on a dual exhibi-

tion of powerhouse running and gazelle-like ability as he pulled off a 60-yard shocker which put U7 on top for good. U7's most embarrassing moment came near the end of the game when they attacked with water balloons secreted by Sherry. A hail of color—and not a single hit.

